

Comparing Iowa's School Finance Formula to Other States

School Finance Formula Review
Committee

October 5, 2009



APA Background

- ☐ APA is a Denver-based consulting firm, founded in 1983, that works primarily with state-level policymakers on education finance and governance issues.
- ☐ APA has worked extensively with states on the procedures used to allocate state aid to districts and schools.
- ☐ APA has work for the Iowa Legislature on previous studies.



APA Experience

- ❑ School finance equity & adequacy
- ❑ Linking school finance to student results
- ❑ Teacher quality & teacher compensation
- ❑ Bi-partisan work for policymakers



My Experience

- ❑ Storm Lake, Iowa Native
- ❑ Former Kansas Legislator
- ❑ NCSL Education Program Director
- ❑ Consultant to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- ❑ Helped create the National Association of Charter School Authorizers
- ❑ Consultant to School Districts: Alternative Pay for Educators
- ❑ 32 years of School Finance Formula Work



A Model School Finance Formula

- Each State is Unique
 - Legislature is Responsible
- Two Major Parts
 - Spending Needs
 - Revenues to Pay for Spending Needs



Spending Needs

- Base Cost varied by District Needs
 - Size
 - Unique situations
 - Enrollment change
- Adjustments varied by Student Needs
 - At-Risk Students
 - English Language Learners
 - Special Education



Revenues

- Federal Dollars
 - Primarily for program specific activities
- State Dollars
 - Equalizing local variation
- Local Taxes
 - Uniform contribution



How Do You Know a “Good” School Finance Formula

□ See Handout



Looking at the Next Five Years

- The Impact of Federal Dollars
 - ARRA Expectations
 - The “Cliff”
- Weighted Student Formulas?
 - Targeted spending to high needs students/schools
- New Teacher Pay Systems



Questions

□ Answers